



Division of Transportation Systems Development
Southwest Region
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CCP Comment
Upper Mississippi River NW&FR
Room 101, 51 East Fourth Street
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Mr. Hultman,

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Southwest Region has reviewed the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and would like to provide comments. Reviewing the plan has raised issues for us with regard to parking, pedestrian overpasses, a new walk down access facility, proposed bank fishing facility and other activities that could impede the operation of State Trunk Highway 35. Our concern is that a parking problem will develop similar to the one that exists north of Stoddard where numerous people park in order to access the new fishing habitat developed a few years ago. Issues we would like to see addressed include:

- Provide a parking lot off of highway 35 just north of Stoddard to accommodate vehicles that park along the highway for fishing at the new habitat built a few years ago.
- Provide parking lots at each location where there are plans for new fishing facilities or pedestrian crossings.
- Provide flashing lights at cross walk locations if necessary.
- Develop maintenance agreements for any facilities they plan on highway right-of-way.

In addition to these concerns we should address funding issues. The Department of Transportation has not been approached regarding how projects in the highway right of way will be funded. The DOT may be able to accommodate crosswalks in conjunction with our normal highway projects. Larger projects (establishing parking lots or pedestrian overpasses) however, may pose a larger funding problem that should be addressed as early as possible in order to avoid delays in delivering projects.

Please contact me at (608) 785-9043 or via e-mail at john.ott@dot.state.wi.us if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

John J Ott
Southwest Region
Planning Section